

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output, comprising:
2 determining a balance;
3 determining a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;
4 dispensing the dispensed amount; and
5 adjusting the balance by the dispensed amount.

1 2. The method of claim 1, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount
2 comprises:
3 dispensing an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed amount.

1 3. The method of claim 2, in which the step of dispensing an amount of currency
2 comprises:
3 activating a hopper to dispense an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed
4 amount.

1 4. The method of claim 1, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount
2 comprises:
3 transferring the dispensed amount to an account.

1 5. The method of claim 1, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount
2 comprises:
3 adjusting a remote balance of a remote gaming device that is in communication with
4 the gaming device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is
2 less than the balance comprises:
3 receiving a signal specifying the dispensed amount.

1 7. The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is
2 less than the balance comprises:
3 determining the dispensed amount in accordance with a balance management rule.

1 8. The method of claim 7, in which the balance management rule specifies that the
2 dispensed amount be a difference between the balance and a predetermined threshold.

1 9. The method of claim 8, in which the predetermined threshold is an initial balance.

1 10. The method of claim 7, in which the balance management rule specifies that the
2 dispensed amount be a predetermined percentage of a difference between the balance and a
3 predetermined threshold.

1 11. The method of claim 1, in which the step of adjusting the balance by the dispensed
2 amount comprises:
3 decreasing the balance by the dispensed amount.

1 12. An apparatus for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output,
2 comprising:
3 a processor; and
4 a memory in communication with the processor,

the memory storing
a program,
and the processor operative with the program to
determine a balance;
determine a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;
dispense the dispensed amount; and
adjust the balance by the dispensed amount.

13. A method for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output, comprising:
establishing a balance;
initiating a play of the gaming device, the play having a corresponding wager amount
and winning amount;
adjusting the balance in dependence on the wager amount and the winning amount,
thereby generating a first adjusted balance;
determining a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;
dispensing the dispensed amount; and
adjusting the first adjusted balance by the dispensed amount, thereby generating a
second adjusted balance.

14. The method of claim 13, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount
comprises:
dispensing an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed amount.

15. The method of claim 14, in which the step of dispensing an amount of currency
comprises:

activating a hopper to dispense an amount of currency that is based on the dispensed amount.

16. The method of claim 13, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount comprises:

transferring the dispensed amount to an account.

17. The method of claim 13, in which the step of dispensing the dispensed amount comprises:

adjusting a remote balance of a remote gaming device that is in communication with the gaming device.

18. The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is less than the balance comprises:

receiving a signal that specifies the dispensed amount.

19. The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a dispensed amount that is less than the balance comprises:

determining the dispensed amount in accordance with a balance management rule.

20. The method of claim 19, in which the balance management rule specifies that the dispensed amount be a difference between the balance and a predetermined threshold.

21. The method of claim 20, in which the predetermined threshold is an initial balance.

1 22. The method of claim 19, in which the balance management rule specifies that the
2 dispensed amount be a predetermined percentage of a difference between the balance and a
3 predetermined threshold.

1 23. The method of claim 19, in which the balance management rule specifies that the
2 dispensed amount be a predetermined percentage of the winning amount.

1 24. The method of claim 13, in which the step of adjusting the balance by the dispensed
2 amount comprises:
3 decreasing the balance by the dispensed amount.

1 25. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 preventing selection of a wager amount that is greater than an available amount, the
3 available amount being a difference between the balance and a predetermined threshold.

1 26. An apparatus for operating a gaming device to provide a monetary output,
2 comprising:
3 a processor; and
4 a memory in communication with the processor,
5 the memory storing
6 a program,
7 and the processor operative with the program to
8 establish a balance;
9 initiate a play of the gaming device, the play having a corresponding wager
10 amount and winning amount;

11 adjust the balance in dependence on the wager amount and the winning
12 amount, thereby generating a first adjusted balance;
13 determine a dispensed amount that is less than the balance;
14 dispense the dispensed amount; and
15 adjust the first adjusted balance by the dispensed amount, thereby generating a
16 second adjusted balance.